

K-623

Circa 1905

Old Millington Bank

Millington

Private

The old Millington Bank is the handsomest of the upper county's turn-of-the-century bank buildings. It was built after a 1904 fire destroyed the earlier bank building and much of the rest of the commercial area around the main crossroads. The original stated intention was to rebuild the bank using the brick walls that remained, but it is not known now if this was done. It is possible that the side walls may have been reused, though not the facade. The facade is one of the handsomest commercial facades in Millington, whose commercial district never really recovered from the fire. A few other commercial buildings were built after the fire, but most were undistinguished. The facade, of special face brick and with thin joints, echoes the corbelled recessed-panel walls of Asbury Methodist Church a short distance to the north, an essentially Italianate building some thirty years older. It is quite possible that the bank directors hired an architect, who picked up the theme from the nearby church. The most notable element of the bank building is the stained-glass compositions executed for the pair of arched transoms over the facade's entry and double window, the former round-headed and the latter stilted. Stained glass in Kent County other than in a church is rare.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Millington Bank (preferred)

and/or common Millington Town Office

## 2. Location

street & number 402 Cypress Street (North side, 2nd lot east of Sassafras Street.) not for publication

city, town Millington vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Kent

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military	___ other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Farmers National Bank of Maryland

street & number P.O. Box 223 telephone no.: 928-3151

city, town Millington state and zip code Maryland 21651

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber WHG 3

street & number folio 378

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys NONE

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. K-623

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The old Millington Bank building is now a four-part building, all built of brick. The original section, with the handsome facade of its south end facing the street, was built soon after the 1904 fire that destroyed the earlier bank and most of the crossroads area. It is a tall one storey and rectangular in plan, with narrow end toward the street. There formerly were buildings on both sides. It is two bays wide, with main entry in the east bay and a double window in the west bay. Both openings have arched transoms (one round-headed, the other stilted) with stained glass compositions that very likely were commissioned for this building. The windows are original, and the door is a modern replacement. The facade's two, unequal-width bays are further defined by recessed panels in the brick, with corbelling at their heads. The facade brick is a deep red, with narrow mortar joints and white mortar for a fine-textured appearance. The sides of the original section, which are parapeted and step down at their center, are made of common brick that is a dark reddish-brown on the surface. The sides were not intended for public viewing, though each did have a single tall round-headed window whose height matched the facade windows. Later a two-level, two-bay deep extension was built onto the rear of the bank, also with parapeted walls. At the rear is a one-storey board room with shed roof, and along the bank's east, long side there is a narrow one-storey section almost as long as the original building with its first rear addition. Since 1976, when the Millington Bank was taken over by the Farmers Bank of Maryland and a new building built at the corner, the old bank has been used as the town office.

(Continued)

## 8. Significance

Survey No. K-623

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Circa 1905 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The old Millington Bank is the handsomest of the upper county's turn-of-the-century bank buildings. It was built after a 1904 fire destroyed the earlier bank building and much of the rest of the commercial area around the main crossroads. The original stated intention was to rebuild the bank using the brick walls that remained, but it is not known now if this was done. It is possible that the side walls may have been reused, though not the facade. The facade is one of the handsomest commercial facades in Millington, whose commercial district never really recovered from the fire. A few other commercial buildings were built after the fire, but most were undistinguished. The facade, of special face brick and with thin joints echoes the corbelled recessed-panel walls of Asbury Methodist Church a short distance to the north, an essentially Italianate building some thirty years older. It is quite possible that the bank directors hired an architect, who picked up the theme from the nearby church. The most notable element of the bank building is the stained-glass compositions executed for the pair of arched transoms over the facade's entry and double window, the former round-headed and the latter stilted. Stained glass in Kent County other than in a church is rare.

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The facade brick is laid in running bond. The quite white mortar joints are only 1/8" to 3/16" wide. Centered in each of the recessed panels, which are of unequal size, are the facade openings, a double-window in the west bay and the main entry in the east bay. The panels are recessed one header width. The special, uniform, dark red facade brick extends about 21" around the corners to the sides, the same width as the distance from the corner to the panel edge. The central "pilaster" is not centered because of the difference in width between door and pair of windows. There is a plain water table, which at the corners in effect is a pilaster base. At the west corner some of the bricks have deteriorated or been knocked out. For part of its height, the east pilaster is surrounded by the brick steps of the new side addition that were mortared to fit closely with and align with the original building's stone (granite) steps. A raised planting bed has been added in front of the building, behind a three-sided brick wall of common red brick, between the low c. 14" high brick wall and the facade. Any lower wall details that may be present are thus obscured. This low planting bed wall abuts the town sidewalk. The sides of the recessed panels are plain. At the heads there are three courses of shallow corbelling done with stretcher bricks.

The side-wall bricks of the main section are laid in 1-to-7 common bond. The mortar here also is light, but the joints are wider and untooled. The bricks are a dark reddish-brown on the surface but orangey beneath. Some have spalled, and some sections need repointing. The side walls, except for the single window opening, is unrelieved to the tile-capped parapet. Evidence remains in the brick to show that the west window was also once tall and round-headed (or stilted), with its height matching the height of the facade openings. A later window has been installed, with a fixed metal awning, and the arch filled in with brick. There is no opening in the west side's north bay. On the east side there was also an arched window. It may have been closed only when the side addition was made. It is not known if these windows also had transoms of stained glass, but it is not likely. These windows were mostly to add as much light as possible in the days before Millington had electricity.

The type of roof used behind the parapet of facade and side walls is not easily seen, but it appears to be a shallowly-pitched shed roof pitched down to the rear of the building, and the first addition at the rear seems to continue the same kind of roof. The rear board room has a steep shed roof, and the long side addition also a low shed roof behind its shingled facade roof section that covers a small inset porch.

The main entry is in the east bay of the south end. Leading to it are four wide granite steps, the top two narrower but deeper than the lower two. Above the top granite step there is now a terrazo sill, and the floor inside is similarly treated. There is a modern metal balustrade on the west side. These steps now adjoin and are continuous with the brick steps of the side wing. The entry architrave is about 15 feet high at the arch's apex. The door jambs are quite recessed beyond the face of the brick (about 5-1/2"). Everything below transom bar level has been replaced, probably in the 1950-1970 period. There is now a glass and mill-finish aluminum door with sidelight, very much  
(continued)

out of keeping with the architrave. Very likely double doors originally were in the c. 53" wide opening. The original transom bar remains. It is bold and compound, befitting the scale of the architrave. From the bottom, it includes dentils, a cyma reversa, fairly small cove with fillets, and a plain cap. The same bar is used at the paired windows. The stained glass in the entry arch is in a radial, or sunburst, pattern with central arch and outer arches similarly round-headed and repeating the theme. It is similar to but not the same as the glass of the nearby windows. Many somewhat muted, "marbelized" colors are used. The brick arch above the transom is of double headers, the inner one flush with the surrounding wall's brickwork, the outer one set out about 1", producing a somewhat prominent hooded appearance. The brick arch does not extend down to the transom, but only to the springing line. The brick arch of the double window does extend to that window's springing line, which is at the transom; its arch ends are lower than those of the entry.

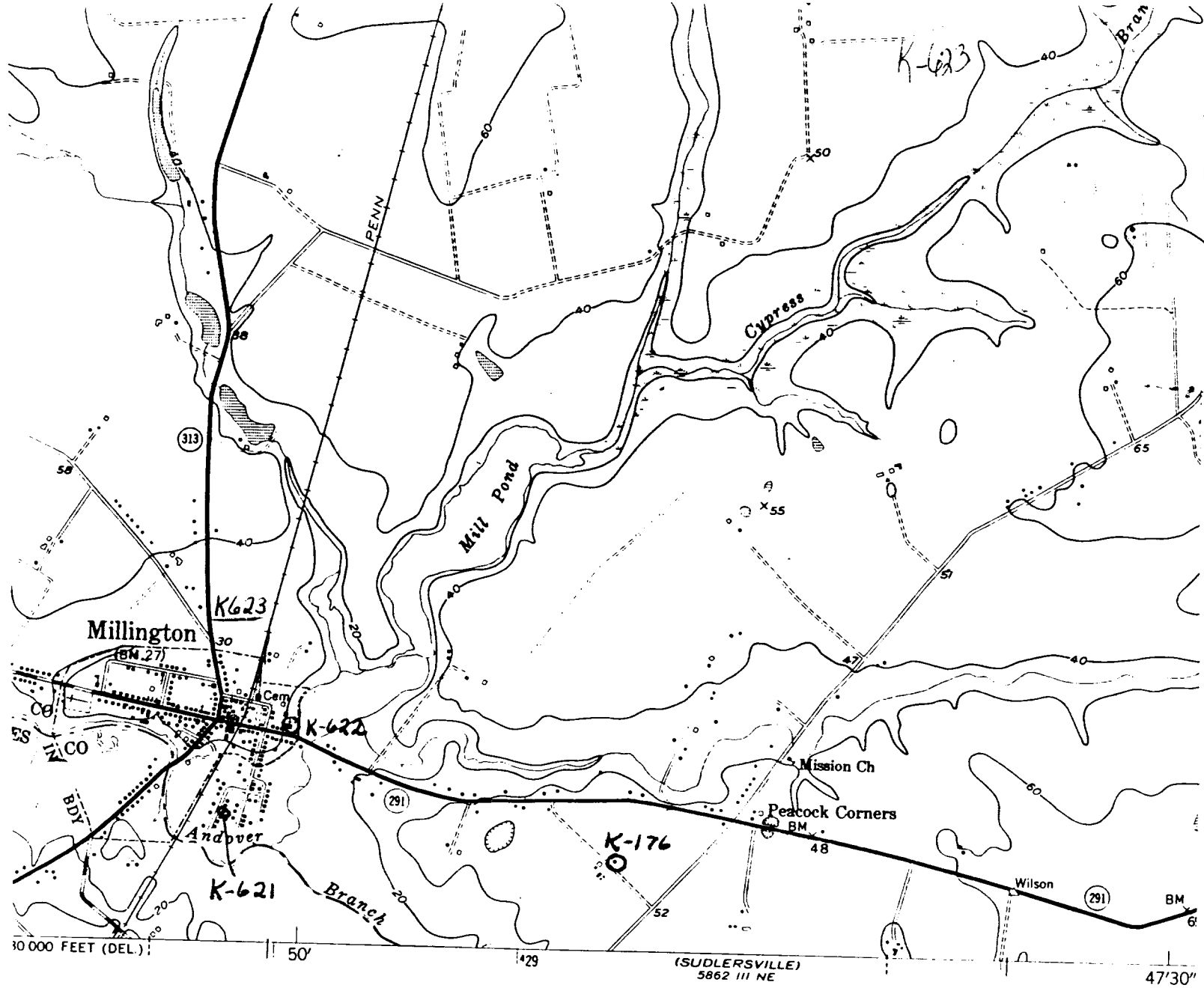
The tall, paired windows with the arched transom in the facade west bay are double-hung with 1-over-1 lights. Between the windows there is a wide pilaster (7") from which now hangs a projecting sign denoting the town office. The window sills is massive and of granite, as the steps at the entry. It is 7" thick, with face rough and undressed. The architrave brick-mold edges are compoundly molded, with a small ovolo and bead at the inside corner. The stained glass of the transom, which is one unit above the double windows, is also in a radial (or fanlight) composition. From a dark-banded, dark-green center there are radial segments in white, gold, and other mottled or marbelized colors. There is an intermediate arch of elliptical purple segments. There is an outer bright blue border of large scallops with bright green infill.

(Dist. N<sup>o</sup>. 1)

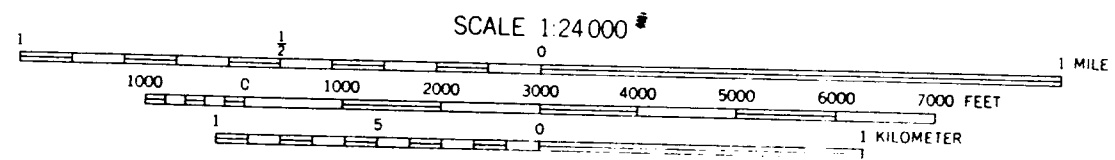
\* NOTE: 1877 MAP IS  
EARLIER THAN BANK







MN  
 GN  
 9 1/2°  
 169 MILS  
 0°31'  
 9 MILS  
 TM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

# MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE

THE  
MILLINGTON  
BANK

NO  
TRESPASSING  
TOW - CAR  
VIOLATORS WILL  
BE PROSECUTED



K-623

Old Millington Bank

Cypress Street, Millington

M. Q. Fallaw - 4/23/86

View to north

K 623 -9



K-623

Old Millington Bank

Cypress Street, Millington

M. Q. Fallaw - 4/23/86

View to northeast

K 623-12